



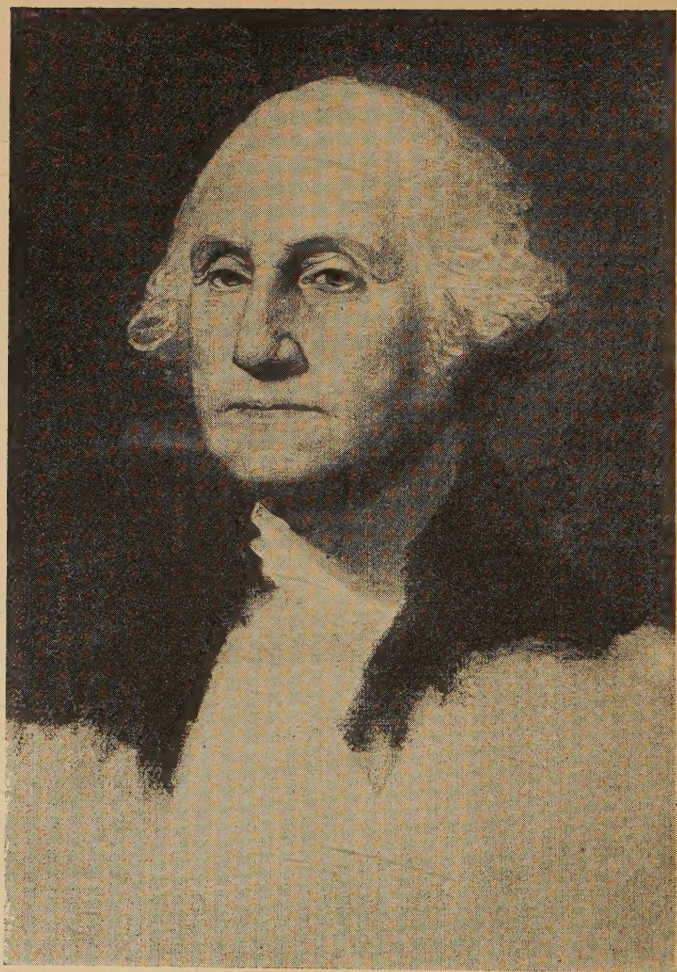


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GEORGE WASHINGTON

COPIES OF THE WILLS OF

GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON

THE FIRST PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES

AND OF

MARTHA WASHINGTON

HIS WIFE

AND OTHER INTERESTING  
RECORDS OF THE COUNTY OF  
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA  
WHEREIN THEY LIVED AND DIED

SECOND EDITION



A copy of this book may be had on application to Clerk  
of Court, Fairfax, Virginia, accompanied by one dollar.

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## Preface to First Edition

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Fairfax County, in Virginia, was organized in 1742 and the records of this County contain some very interesting as well as instructive facts. It is not the purpose of the designer of this little book to dwell too much in detail, but otherwise with his knowledge of the records of the County to give the articles herein in as few words as possible, and he will endeavor to use the quaint expressions and spelling verbatim et literatim. This book will have few illustrations, as it is the designer's object to try and put it on the market with as little cost as possible, so that all may have an opportunity to possess this important little bit of history. It is also needless to dwell on the character and ability of that great Chieftain and our fellow "Man," who has been eulogized by some of the greatest men. The reader is requested to turn to page 56 and read "The Passing Away of Washington," written by Capt. W. H. Snowden, of Arcturus, Va. (who has, by the way, published some very interesting books on Virginia and Maryland, and I here refer all readers of history to his books which can be procured from him at little cost). Apart from the fact that Washington was our first President and Commander of our "Victorious Soldiers" in our sore trials; his will teaches us wisdom and kindness to our fellow-man; it also teaches us to love and honor our country and never to hesitate to say a word in its behalf. The social and political problems we are now face to face with were also worries of this great man.

E. RICHARDSON HOLBROOK.

Fairfax, Va., Jan. 15, 1904.

## Preface to Second Edition

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The first edition of this book appeared in 1904 and has been long since exhausted. The increasing demand for copies of the will of Washington from the public at large, and particularly from tourists who visit Fairfax to see the original document, which is in his handwriting, has prompted the designer to issue this second edition, the entire proceeds of which have been donated to the fund being raised by the Fairfax School League to build and equip a much needed public school at Fairfax. The "schedule" and "notes" are exact copies of the originals, which are likewise in General Washington's handwriting and recorded with his will. The only new feature of this edition is the copy of the will of Martha Washington, which it seems entirely appropriate to publish along with that of her distinguished husband.

E. RICHARDSON HOLBROOK.

Fairfax, Va., April 20, 1923.





MOUNT VERNON, THE HOME OF WASHINGTON



# Copy of Washington's Will

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In the name of God, Amen



George Washington of Mount Vernon—a citizen of the United States,—and lately President of the same, do make, ordain and declare this instrument, which is written with my own hand, and every page thereof subscribed with my name, to be my last Will & Testament, revoking all others.

Imprimus. All my debts, of which there are but few, and none of magnitude, are to be punctually and speedily paid—and the legacies hereinafter bequeathed, are to be discharged as soon as circumstances will permit, and in the manner directed.

Item—To my dearly beloved wife Martha Washington, I give and bequeath the use, profit and benefit of my whole Estate, real and personal, for the term of her natural life;—except such parts thereof as are specifically disposed of hereafter:—My improved lot in the Town of Alexandria, situated on Pitt and Cameron Streets, I give to her & her heirs forever; as I also do my household and kitchen furniture of every sort and kind, with the liquors and groceries which may be on hand at the time of my decease; to be used and disposed of as she may think proper.

Item—Upon the decease of my wife, it is my will and desire that all the slaves which I hold in my *own right*, shall receive their freedom.—To emancipate them during her life, would, tho earnestly wished by me, be

attended with such insuperable difficulties on account of their intermixture by marriages with the Dower negroes, as to excite the most painful sensations, if not disagreeable consequences from the latter, while both descriptions are in the occupancy of the same proprietor, it not being in my power, under the tenure by which the dower Negroes are held, to manumit them.—And whereas among those who will receive freedom according to this devise, there may be some, who from old age or bodily infirmities and others who on account of their infancy, that will be unable to support themselves, it is my will and desire that all who come under the first and second description, shall be comfortably clothed and fed by my heirs, while they live;—and that such of the latter description as have no parents living, or if living are unable, or unwilling to provide for them, shall be bound by the Court until they shall arrive at the age of twenty five years;—and in cases where no record can be produced whereby their ages can be ascertained, the Judgment of the Court upon its own view of the subject, shall be adequate and final.—The negroes thus bound are (by their masters or mistresses) to be taught to read and write; and to be brought

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up to some useful occupation, agreeably to the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, providing for the support of orphan and other poor children. And I do hereby expressly forbid the sale, or transportation out of the said Commonwealth, of any Slave I may die possessed of, under any pretence whatsoever.—and I do moreover most pointedly, and most solemnly enjoin it upon Executors hereafter named, or the sur-

vivors of them, to see that *this* clause respecting Slaves, and every part thereof be religiously fulfilled at the Epoch at which it is directed to take place; without evasion neglect or delay, after the crops which may then be on the ground are harvested, particularly as it respects the aged and infirm;—seeing that a regular and permanent fund be established for their support so long as there are subjects requiring it;—not trusting to the uncertain provisions to be made by individuals.—And to my mulatto man William (calling himself William Lee) I give immediate freedom; or if he should prefer it (on account of the accidents which have befallen him, and which have rendered him incapable of walking or of any active employment) to remain in the situation he now is, it shall be optional in him to do so. In either case however, I allow him an annuity of thirty dollars during his natural life, which shall be independent of the vituals and clothes he has been accustomed to receive, if he chuses the last alternative; but in full with his freedom if he prefers the first;—and this I give him as a testimony of my sense of his attachment to me, and for his faithful services during the revolutionary War.

Item—To the Trustees (Governors, or by whatsoever other name they may be designated) of the Academy in the Town of Alexandria, I give and bequeath, in Trust, Four thousand dollars, or in other words twenty of the shares which I hold in the Bank of Alexandria, towards the support of a Free School established at, and annexed to, the said Academy; for the purpose of educating such orphan children, or the children of such other poor and indigent persons as are unable to accomplish it with their own means; and who, in the judgment of the trustees of the said Seminary, are best entitled to

the benefit of this donation.—The aforesaid twenty shares I give and bequeath in perpetuity;—the dividends only of which are to be drawn for and applied by the said Trustees for the

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time being, for the uses above mentioned;—the stock to remain entire and untouched, unless indications of a failure of the said Bank should be so apparent, or discontinuance thereof should render a removal of this fund necessary;—in either of these cases the amount of the stock here devised is to be vested in some other bank or public institution, whereby the interest may with regularity and certainty be drawn, and applied as above.—And to prevent misconception, my meaning is, and is hereby declared to be, that these twenty shares are in lieu of, and not in addition to, the Thousand pounds given by a missive letter some years ago; in consequence whereof an annuity of fifty pounds has since been paid towards the support of this institution. Item—Whereas by a law of the Commonwealth of Virginia, enacted in the year 1785, the Legislature thereof was pleased (as an evidence of its approbation of the services I had rendered the public during the Revolution—and partly, I believe, in consideration of my having suggested the vast advantages which the community would derive from the extension of its Inland navigation, under Legislative patronage) to present me with one hundred shares of one hundred dollars each, in the incorporated company established for the purpose of extending the navigation of James River from tide water to the mountains:—And also of fifty shares of one hundred pounds sterling each, in the corporation of another company, likewise establish for



the similar purpose of opening the navigation of the River Potomac from tide water to Fort Cumberland; the acceptance of which, although the offer was highly honorable, and grateful to my feelings, was refused, as inconsistent with a principle which I had adopted, and had never departed from—namely—not to receive pecuniary compensation for any services I could render my country in its arduous struggle with Great Britain for its Rights; and because I had evaded similar propositions from other States in the Union;—adding to this refusal, however, an intimation, that, if it should be the pleasure of the Legislature to permit me to appropriate the said shares to *public uses*, I would receive them on those terms with due sensibility;—and this it having consented to, in flattering terms, as will appear by a subsequent law and sundry resolutions, in the most ample and honorable manner, I proceed after this recital, for the more correct understanding of the case to declare—

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That as it has always been a source of serious regret with me to see the youth of these United States sent to foreign countries for the purpose of education, often before their minds were formed, or they had imbibed any adequate ideas of the happiness of their own;—contracting, too frequently, not only habits of dissipation and extravagance, but principles unfriendly to Republican Government and to the true and genuine liberties of mankind; which, thereafter are rarely overcome.—For these reasons, it has been my ardent wish to see a plan devised on a liberal scale which would have a tendency to spr'd systematic ideas through all parts of this rising Empire, thereby to do away local attach-

ments and State prejudices, as far as the nature of things would, or indeed ought to admit, from our national councils.—Looking anxiously forward to the accomplishment of so desirable an object as this is (in my estimation) my mind has not been able to contemplate any plan more likely to effect the measure than, the establishment of a University in a central part of the United States to which the youths of fortune and talents from all parts thereof might be sent for the completion of their education in all the branches of polite literature;—in arts and sciences—in acquiring knowledge in the principles of Politics and good Government;—and (as a matter of infinite importance in my judgment) by associating with each other, and forming friendships in Juvenile years, be enabled to free themselves in a proper degree from those Local prejudices and habitual jealousies which have just been mentioned; and which, when carried to excess, are never failing sources of disquietude to the Public mind and pregnant of mischievous consequences to this Country:—Under these impressions, so fully dilated

Item—I give and bequeath in perpetuity the fifty shares which I hold in the Potomac Company (under theaforesaid Acts of the Legislature of Virginia) towards the endowment of a University to be established within the limits of the District of Columbia, under the auspices of the General Government, if that Government should incline to extend a fostering

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hand towards it ——————and until such seminary is established, and the funds arising on these shares shall be required for its support, my further will

and desire is that the profit accruing therefrom shall, whenever the dividends are made, be laid out in purchasing stock in the Bank of Columbia, or some other Bank, at the discretion of my Executors, or by the Treasurer of the United States for the time being under the direction of Congress; provided that honorable body should patronize the measure, and the dividends proceeding from the purchase of such Stock is to be vested in more Stock, and so on, until a sum adequate to the accomplishment of the object is obtained, of which I have not the smallest doubt, before many years passes away; even if no aid or encouraged is given by Legislative authority, or from any other source.

Item—The hundred shares which I held in the James River Company, I have given, and now confirm in perpetuity to, and for the use and benefit of Liberty Hall Academy, in the County of Rockbridge, in the Commonwealth of Virga.

Item—I release exonerate and discharge, the estate of my deceased brother, Samuel Washington, from the payment, of the money which is due to me for the land I sold to Philip Pendleton (lying in the County of Berkeley) who assigned the same to him the said Samuel; who, by agreement was to pay me therefor.—And whereas by some contract (the purport of which was never communicated to me) between the said Samuel and his son Thornton Washington, the latter became possessed of the aforesaid land, without any conveyance having passed from me, either to the said Pendleton, the said Samuel, or the said Thornton, and without any consideration having been made, by which neglect neither the legal or equitable title has been alienated;—it rests therefore with me to declare my

intention concerning the premises—And these are to give and bequeath the said land to, whomsoever the said Thornton Washington (who is also dead) devised the same; or to his heirs forever if he died intestate:—Exonerating the estate of the said Thornton, equally with that of the said Samuel from payment of the purchase money; which, with Interest, agreeably to the original contract with the said Pendleton, would amount to more than a thousand pounds.—And whereas two other sons of my said deceased brother Samuel—namely, George Steptoe Washington and Lawrence Augustine Washington, were by the decease of

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those to whose care they were committed, brought under my protection, and in consequence have occasioned advances on my part for their education at college, and other schools, for their board—clothing—and other incidental expenses, to the amount of near five thousand dollars over and above the sums furnished by their estate wch sum may be inconvenient for them, or their father's Estate to refund.—I do for these reasons acquit them, and the said estate, from the payment thereof.—My intention being that all accounts between them and me, and their father's estate and me shall stand balanced.—

Item—The balance due to me from the Estate of Bartholomew Dandridge deceased (my wife's brother) and which amounted on the first day of October 1795 to Four hundred and twenty five pounds (as will appear by an account rendered by his deceased son John Dandridge, who was the acting Exr. of his father's will) I release and acquit from the payment thereof.—



And the negros, then thirty three in number) formerly belonging to the said Estate, who were taken in Execution—sold—and purchased in on my account in the year—and ever since have remained in the possession, and to the use of Mary, widow of the said Bartholomew Dandridge with their increase, it is my will and desire shall continue, and be in her possession, without paying hire or making compensation for the same for the time past or to come, during her natural life; at the expiration of which, I direct, that all of them who are forty years old and upwards, shall receive their freedom; all under that age and above sixteen shall serve seven years and no longer;—and all under sixteen years shall serve until they are twenty five years of age, and then be free.——And to avoid disputes respecting the ages of any of these negros, they are to be taken to the Court of the County in which they reside, and the judgment thereof, in this relation, shall be final and a record thereof made; which may be adduced as evidence at any time thereafter, if disputes should arise concerning the same.——And I further direct, that the heirs of the said Bartholomew Dandridge shall equally, share the benefits arising from the services of the said negros according to the tenor of this devise, upon the decease of their mother.—

Item—If Charles Carter who intermarried with my niece Betty

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Lewis is not sufficiently secured in the title to the lots he had of me in the town of Fredericksburg, it is my will and desire that my Executors shall make such conveyances of them as the law requires, to render it perfect.—

Item—To my nephew, Wm. Augustine Washington and his heirs (if he should conceive them to be objects worth prosecuting) and to his heirs,—a lot in the town of Manchester (opposite to Richmond) No. 265—drawn on my sole account, and also—the tenth of one or two hundred acre lots, and two or three half acre lots in the city and vicinity of Richmond, drawn in partnership with nine others, all in the lottery of the deceased William Byrd are given—as is also a lot which I purchased of John Hood, conveyed by William Willie and Saml Gordon Trustees of the said John Hood, numbered 139 in the town of Edinburgh, in the county of Prince George, State of Virginia.

Item—To my nephew Bushrod Washington, I give and bequeath all the papers in my possession, which relate to my civil and military administration of the affairs of this Country:—I leave to him also, such of my private papers as are worth preserving;—and at the decease of—wife, and before if she is not inclined to retain them, I give and bequea. my library of books, and pamphlets of every kind.—

Item—Having sold lands which I possessed in the State of Pennsylvania, and part of a tract held in equal right with George Clinton, late Governor of New York, in the State of New York;—My share of land, and interest, in the Great Dismal Swamp, and a tract of land which I owned in the County of Gloucester; withholding the legal titles thereto, until the consideration money should be paid.—And having moreover leased, and conditionally sold (as will appear by the tenor of the said leases) all my lands upon the Great Kanhawa,—and a tract upon Difficult Run, in the County of Loudon, it is my will and direction, that whensoever the contracts are fully, and respec-

tively complied with, according to the spirit, true intent and meaning thereof, on the part of the purchasers, their heirs or assigns, that then, and in that case, conveyances are to be made, agreeably to the terms of the said contracts; and the money arising therefrom, when paid, to be vested in Bank Stock; the dividends whereof, as of that also wch. is already vested therein, is to inure to my said wife during her life

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but the stock it self is to remain, & be subject to the general distribution hereafter directed.

Item.—To the Earl of Buchan I recommit “The Box “made of the Oak that sheltered the Great Sir William “Wallace after the battle of Falkirk”—presented to me by his Lordship, in terms too flattering for me to repeat,—with a request “To pass it, on the event of my “decease to the man in my Country who should appear “to merit it best, upon the same conditions that have “induced him to send it to me,”—Whether easy, or not, to select *the man* who might comport with his Lordship’s opinion in this respect, is not for me to say, but conceiving that no disposition of this valuable curiosity can be more eligible than the re-commitment of it to his own cabinet, agreeably to the original design of the Goldsmiths Company of Edinburgh, who presented it to him, and at his request, consented that, it should be transferred to me; I do give and bequeath the same to his Lordship, and in case of his decease, to his heir, with my grateful thanks for the distinguished honor of presenting it to me; and more especially for the favorable sentiments with which he accompanied it.—

Item—To my brother Charles Washington I give and bequeath the gold headed cane left me by Doct'r Franklin in his will.———I add nothing to it, because of the ample provision I have made for his issue,———“———To the acquaintances and friends of my juvenile years, Lawrence Washington and Robert Washington of Chotanck, I give my other two gold-headed canes, having my arms engraved on them; and to each (as they will be useful where they live) I leave one of the spy glasses which constituted part of my equipage during the late war.———To my compatriot in arms, and old and intimate friend Doct'r Craik, I give my bureau (or as the cabinet makers call it Tambour Secretary) and the circular chair.—an appendage of my study———To Doct'r David Stuart I give my large shaving and dressing table, and my Telescope———To the Reverend, now Bryan, Lord Fairfax, I give a Bible in three large folio volumes, with notes, presented to me by the Right Reverend Thomas Wilson, Bishop of Sodor & Man———To General de la Fayette I give a pair of finely wrought steel pistols, taken

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from the enemy in the Revolutionary war.———To my sisters in law Hannah Washington and Mildred Washington;—To my friends Eleano Stuart, Hannah Washington of Fairfield, and Elizabeth Washington of Hayfield, I give, each, a mourning ring of the value of one hundred dollars.———These bequests are not made for the intrinsic value of them, but as mementos of my esteem and regard.———To Tobias Lear, I give the use of the farm which he now holds, in virtue



of a lease from me to him and his deceased wife (for and during their natural lives) free from rent, during his life;—at the expiration of which, it is to be disposed as is hereinafter directed———. To Sallie B. Haynie (a distant relation of mine) I give and bequeath three hundred dollars———. To Sarah Green daughter of the deceased Thomas Bishop, and to Ann Walker, daughter of Jno. Alton, also deceased, I give, each one hundred dollars, in consideration of the attachment of their fathers to me, each of whom having lived nearly forty years in my family.—To each of my nephews, William Augustine Washington, George Lewis, George Steptoe Washington,—Bushrod Washington and Samuel Washington, I give one of the swords or cutteaux of which I may die possessed; and they are to chuse in the order they are named.—These swords are accompanied with an injunction not to unsheath them for the purpose of shedding blood, except it be for self defence, or in defence of their Country and its rights; and in the latter case, to keep them unsheathed, and prefer falling with them in their hands to the relinquishment thereof.

And now

Having gone through these specific devises, with the explanations for the more correct understanding of the meaning and design of them; I proceed to the distribution of the more important parts of my Estate, in manner following

First—To my nephew Bushrod Washington and his heirs (partly in consideration of an intimation to his deceased father, while we were bachelors, and he had kindly undertaken to superintend my Estate during my military services in the former war between Great Britain and France, that if I should fall therein, Mt. Vernon (then less extensive in domain than at present—

should become his property) I give and bequeath all that part thereof which is comprehended within the following limits—viz—Beginning

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at the ford of Dogue Run near my mill, and extending along the road, and bounded thereby as it now goes, and ever has gone since my recollection of it, to the ford of Little Hunting Creek at the gum spring until it comes to a knowl opposite to an old road which formerly passed through the lower field of Muddy Hole Farm, at which, on the north side of the said road are three red, or Spanish oaks marked as a corner, and a stone placed—thence by a line of trees to be marked, rectangular to the back line, or outer boundary of the tract between Thomson Mason and myself,—thence with that line easterly (now double ditching with a post and rail fence thereon) to the run of little hunting Creek,—thence with that run which is the boundary between the lands of the late Humphrey Peake and me, to the tide water of the said Creek; thence by that water to Potomac River,—thence with the River to the mouth of Dogue Creek,—and thence with the said Dogue Creek to the place of beginning at the aforesaid ford; containing upwards of Four thousand acres, be the same more or less—together with the Mansion House and all other buildings and improvem thereon—

Second.—In consideration of the consanguinity between them and my wife, being as nearly related to her as to myself, as on account of the affection I had for, and the obligation I was under to, their father when living, who from his youth, had attached himself to my person, and followed my fortunes through the vicissitudes of

the late Revolution—afterward devoting his time to the superintendence of my private concerns for many years, whilst my public employments rendered it impracticable for me to do it myself, thereby affording me essential services, and always performing them in a manner the most filial and respectful: for these reasons I say, I give and bequeath to George Fayette Washington, and Lawrence Augustine Washington & their heirs, my estate East of little hunting creek, lying on the River Potomac;—including the farm of 360 acres leased to Tobias Lear as noticed before and containing in the whole, by deeds Two thousand & twenty seven acres—be it more or less.—which said Estate it is my will and desire should be equitably, and advantageously divided between them, according to quantity, quality and other circumstances when the youngest shall have arrived at the age of twenty one years, by

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three Judicious and disinterested men;—one to be chosen by each of the brothers, and the third by these two.—In the mean time, if the termination of wife's interest therein should have ceased the profits arising therefrom are to be applied—for their joint uses and benefit.—

Third—And whereas it has always been my intention, since my expectation of having issue has ceased, to consider the grand children of my wife in the same light as I do my own relations, and to act a friendly part by them; more especially by the two whom we have reared from their earliest infancy—namely—Eleanor Parke Custis and George Washington Parke Custis.—and whereas the former of these hath lately inter-

married with Lawrence Lewis, a son of my deceased sister Betty Lewis, by which union the inducement to provide for them both has been increased;—Wherefore, I give and bequeath to the said Lawrence Lewis and Eleanor Parke Lewis, his wife, and their heirs, the residue of my Mount Vernon Estate, not already, devised to my nephew Bushrod Washington; comprehended within the following description.—viz—all the land north of the Road leading from the ford of Dogue Run to the Gum Spring as described in the devise of the other part of the tract, to Bushrod Washington, until it comes to the stone and three red or Spanish oaks on the knowl.—thence with the rectangular line to the back line (between Mr. Mason and me)—thence with that line westerly, along the new double ditch to Dogue Run, by the tumbling dam of my mill;—thence with the said Run to the ford aforementioned;—to which I add all the land I possess west of the said Dogue Run & Dogue Crk bounded easterly and southerly thereby;—together with the Mill, Distillery and all other houses and improvements on the premises, making together about two thousand acres be it more or less

Fourth—actuated by the principle already mentioned, I give and bequeath to George Washington Parke Custis, the Grandson of my wife, and my ward, and to his heirs, the tract I hold on four mile Run in the vicinity of Alexandria, containing one thousand two hundred acres, more or less,—& my entire Square number twenty one, in the City of Washington.—

Fifth.—All the rest and residue of my Estate, real and personal—not disposed of in manner aforesaid—In whatsoever consisting—wheresoever lying—and whensoever found—a Schedule of which, as far as is recollected, with a reasonable estimate of its value, is

hereunto annexed—I desire may be sold by my Executors at such times—in such manner—and on such credits (if an equal, valid, and satisfactory distribution of the specific property can not be made without)—as, in their judgment shall be most conducive to the interests of the parties concerned; and the monies arising therefrom to be divided into twenty three equal parts, and applied as follow—viz.—

To William Augustine Washington, Elizabeth Spotswood, Jane Thornton, and the heirs of Ann Ashton; son, and daughters of my deceased brother, Augustine Washington, I give and bequeath four parts;—that is—one part to each of them.....

To FIELDING LEWIS, George Lewis, Robert Lewis, Howell Lewis & Betty Carter, sons and daughter of my deceased sister Betty Lewis, I give bequeath five other parts—one to each of them

To George Steptoe Washington, Lawrence Augustine Washington, Harriot Parks, and the heirs of Thornton Washington, sons and daughter of my deceased brother Samuel Washington, I give and bequeath other four parts, one part to each of them.-----

To Corbin Washington, and the heirs of Jane Washington, son and daughter of my deceased brother John Augustine Washington, I give and bequeath two parts;—one part to each of them—

To Samuel Washington, Francis Ball and Mildred Hammond, son and daughters of my brother Charles Washington, I give and bequeath three parts;—one part to each of them. And to George Fayette Washington, Charles Augustine Washington and Maria Washington, sons and daughter of my deceased nephew Geo. Augustine Washington, I give one other part;—that is—to each a third of that part.



To Elizabeth Parke Law, Martha Parke Peter, and Eleanor Parke Lewis, I give and bequeath three other parts—that is, a part to each of them.—

And to my nephews Bushrod Washington and Lawrence Lewis,—and to my ward, the grandson of my wife, I give and bequeath one other part;—that is, a third thereof to each of them.—And if it should

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so happen, that any of these persons whose names are here ennumerated (unknown to me) should now be deceased—or should die before me, that in either of these cases, the heirs of such deceased person shall, notwithstanding derive all the benefits of the bequest; in the same manner as if he, or she, was actually living at the time

And by way of advice, I recommend it to my Executors not to be precipitate in disposing of the landed property (herein directed to be sold) if from temporary causes the sale thereof should be dull; experience having fully evinced, that the price of land (especially above the Falls of the Rivers & on the western Waters) have been progressively rising, and can not be long checked in its encreasing value.—And I particularly recommend it to such of the legatees (under this clause of my will) as can make it convenient, to take each a share of my stock in the Potomac Company in preference to the amount of what it might sell for; being thoroughly convinced myself,—that no uses to which the money can be applied will be so productive as the Tolls arising from this navigation when in full operation (and this from the nature of things it must be 'ere long) and more especially if that of the Shanondoah is added thereto.—

The family Vault at Mount Vernon requiring repairs and being improperly situated besides, I desire that a new one of Brick, and upon a larger scale, may be built, at the foot of what is commonly called the Vineyard Inclosure,—on the ground which is marked out.—In which my remains, with those of my deceased relatives (now in the old Vault) and such others of my family as may chuse to be entombed there, may be deposited.—And it is my express desire that my Corpse may be interred in a private manner, without parade, or funeral oration.—

Lastly—I constitute and appoint my dearly beloved wife Martha Washington, my nephews William Augustine Washington, Bushrod Washington, George Step-toe Washington, Samuel Washington and Lawrence Lewis, & my ward George Washington Parke Custis—

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(when he shall have arrived at the age of twenty years)  
Executrix & Executors of this Will and Testament,—  
In the construction of which it will readily be perceived that no professional character has been consulted or has had any agency in the draught—and that, although it has occupied many of my leisure hours to digest & to through it into its present form, it may, notwithstanding, appear crude and incorrect.—But having endeavored to be plain, and explicit in all the devises—even at the expense of prolixity, perhaps of tautology, I hope, and trust, that no disputes will arise concerning them; but if, contrary to expectation, the case should be otherwise from the want of legal expression, or the usual technical terms,—or because too much or too little has been said on any of the devises to be consonant with law, my will and direction ex-

pressly is, that all disputes (if unhappily any should arise) shall be decided by three impartial and intelligent men, known for their probity and good understanding;—two to be chosen by the disputants—each having the choice of one—and the third by those two.—which three men thus chosen, shall unfettered by Law, or legal constructions, declare their sense of the Testator's intention;—and such decision is, to all intents and purposes to be as binding on the Parties as if it had been give in the Supreme Court of the United States.—In witness of all, and of each of the things herein contained I have set my hand seal this ninth day of July in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety\* and of the Independence of the United states, The Twenty fourth.

G<sup>o</sup>. WASHINGTON. [SEAL.]

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\*It appears the Testator omitted the word "nine."

## Schedule of Washington's Property

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Schedule of property comprehended in the foregoing Will, which is directed to be sold, and some of it, conditionally is sold; with descriptive and explanatory notes relative thereto.—

### IN VIRGINIA.

	Acres.	Price.	Dollars.
Loudoun County—			
Difficult Run.....	300	....	\$6,666 (a)
Loudoun & Fauquier—			
Ashby's Bent.....	2,481	\$10	24,810 (b)
Chattin's Run.....	885	\$ 8	7,080 (b)
Berkley—			
So. Fork of Bullskin.....	1,600		
Head of Evan's M.....	453		
In Wormley's Line.....	183	20	\$44,720 (c)
	<hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/>		
	2,236		
Frederick—			
Bought from Mercer.....	571	20	11,420 (d)
Hampshire—			
On Potk, River ab. B....	240	15	3,600 (e)
Gloucester—			
On north River.....	400	abt.	3,600 (f)
Nansemond—			
Near Suffolk 1-3 of 1119			
Acres.....	373	\$8	2,984 (g)
Great Dismal Swamp—			
My dividend thereof.....	abt.		20,000 (h)

Ohio River—			
Round Bottom.....	587		
Little Kanhawa.....	2,314		
	<hr/>		
	2,901		\$124,880
Amount brot over.....	2,901		124,880
16 miles lower down.....	2,448		
Opposite Big Bent.....	4,395		
	<hr/>		
	9,744	\$10	97,440 (i)
Great Kanhawa—			
Near the mouth West...	10,990		
East side above.....	7,276		
Mouth of Cole River....	2,000		
Opposite thereto.....	2,950		
Burning Spring.....	125		
	<hr/>		
	23,341		200,000 (k)
Maryland—			
Charles County.....	600	6	3,600 (l)
Montgomery “.....	519	12	6,228 (m)
Pennsylvania—			
Great Meadows.....	234	6	1,404 (n)
New York—			
Mohawk River abt.....	1,000	6	6,000 (o).
North Westn. Territory—			
On Little Miami.....	839		
Ditto.....	977		
Ditto.....	1,235		
	<hr/>		
	3,051	5	\$15,251 (p)



## Kentucky—

Rough Creek.....	3,000		
Ditto adjoining.....	2,000	\$2	10,000 (q)
	<hr/>		
	5,000		

## Lots—viz—

## City of Washington—

2 near the Capitol sqr....	634		
Cost \$963, and with buldgs.....			15,000 (r)

Carried over..... \$479,803

Dollars.

Amount brot over..... 479,803

## Lots City of Washington—

No. 5, 12, 13, & 14, the 3 last water lots on the Eastern branch in Sqr. 667, containing together 34,438 Sqr. feet at 12cts.....		4,132 (s)
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## Alexandria—

Corner of Pitt and Prince Strts half an acre—laid out into buildings 3 or 4 of wch are let on grd Rent at \$3 per foot.	4,000 (t)
---	-----------

## Winchester—

A lot in the town of half an acre & an- other in the Commons of about 6 acres —supposed.....	400 (u)
--	---------

## Bath or Warm Springs—

Two well situated & had buildings to the amount of £150.....	800 (v)
---	---------

## STOCK,


United States 6 pr cts....	3,476	
Do deferred, 1873		
3 pr. cts. 2946	2,500.....	6,246 (x)

Potomac Company.—	
24 Shares cost ea £100 Sterlg.....	10,666 (y)
James River Company—	
5 shares each cost \$100.....	500 (z)
Bank of Columbia—	
170 shares \$40 each.....	6,800
Bank of Alexandria—besides 20 to the free school 5.....	1,000 (&)
	<hr/>
	\$514,347

Amount brot over..... 514,347

Stock living, viz.—

- 1 Covering horse, 5 coh horses—4 riding  
do—six brood mares—20 working  
horses and mares.—2 Covering jacks  
and 3 young ones, 10 she asses—42  
working mules—15 younger ones—329  
head of horned cattle, 640 head of  
sheep, and a large stock of hogs, the  
precise number unknown—

 My manager has estimated this  
live stock at £7,000 but I shall set it  
down in order to make sd sum at.. 15,653

Aggregate amt;..... \$530,000

### NOTES.

(a) This tract for the size of it is valuable; more for it's situation than the quality of it's soil, though that is good for farming, with a considerable portion of gr'd that might very easily, be improved into meadow. It lies on the great Road from the City of Washington, Alexandria and George Town to Lees-

burgh and Winchester at Difficult bridge—nineteen miles from Alexandria less from the City & George Town, and not more than three from Matildaville at the Great Falls of Potomac—

There is a valuable seat on the premises—and the whole is conditionally sold for the sum annexed in the schedule.

(b) What the selling prices of land in the vicinity of these two tracts are I know not; but compared with those above the ridge, and others below them the value annexed will appear moderate—a less would not obtain them from me—

(c) The surrounding land not superior in soil, situation or properties of any sort, sell currently at from twenty to thirty dollars an acre. The lowest price is affixed to these.

(d) The observations made in the last notes applies equally to this tract, tract being in the vicinity of them, and of similar quality, altho it lies in another County.

(e) This tract though small is extremely valuable—it lies on the Potomac River, about twelve miles above the town of Bath (or Warm Springs) and is in the shape of a horse-shoe, the river running almost around it. Two hundred acres of it is rich low grounds, with a great abundance of the largest and finest Walnut trees, which with the produce of the soil might (by means of the improved navigation of the Potomac) be brought to a shipping port with more ease and at a smaller expense than that which is transported thirty miles only, by land.

(f) This tract is of second rate gloucester low ground—it has no improvement thereon, but lies on navigable water abounding in fish and oysters, it was received in payment of a debt (carrying interest) and valued

in the year 1789, by an impartial gentleman to £800—N. B. It has lately sold and there is due thereon, a balance equal to what is annexed—the schedule.

(g) These 373 acres are the third part of undivided purchases made the deceased Fielding Lewis, Thomas Walker and myself, on full conviction that they would become valuable—the land lies on the road from Suffolk to Norfolk touches (if am not mistaken) some part of the navigable water of Nansemond River—borders on—and comprehends part of the rich Dismal swamp; is capable of great improvement;—and from its situation must become extremely valuable.

(h) This is an undivided interest wch I held in the Great Dismal Swamp Company, containing about 4,000 acres, with my part of the Plantation and stock thereon belonging to the Company in the s'd Swamp.

(i) These several tracts of land are of the first quality on the Ohio River in the parts where they are situated, being almost, if not altogether, River bottom.

The smallest of these tracts is actually sold at ten dollars an acre, but the consideration therefor, not received, the rest are equally valuable, and will sell as high, especially that which lies just below the Little Kanhawa, and is opposite to a thick settlement on the West side of the River—

The four tracts have an aggregate bredth upon the River of Sixteen miles and is bounded thereby that distance.

(k) These tracts are situated on the great Kanhawa River, and the first four are bounded thereby for more than forty miles. It is acknowledged by all who have seen them (and of the tract containing 10,990 acres which I have been on myself, I can assert) that there is no richer, or more valuable land in all

that Region. There are conditionally sold for the sum mentioned—in the schedule that is \$200,000 and if the terms of that sale are not complied with they will command considerable more. The tract of which the 125 acres is a moiety, was taken up by General Andrew Lewis and myself for and on account of a bituminous Spring which it contains, of so inflammable a nature as to burn as freely as spirits and is as nearly difficult to extinguish.

(l) I am but little acquainted with this land although I have once been on it. It was received (many years since) in discharge of a debt due to me from Daniel Janifer Adams, at the value annexed thereto, and must be worth more. It is very level, lies near the River Potomac.

(m) This tract lies about 30 miles above the City of Washington not far from Kittoctan. It is good farming land, and by those who are well acquainted with it, I am informed that it would sell at twelve or \$15 pr acre.

(n) This land is valuable on account of its local situation and other properties. It affords an exceeding good stand on Braddock's Road from Fort Cumberland to Pittsburgh and besides a fertile soil, possesses a large quantity of natural meadow fit for the scythe. It is distinguished by the appellation of the Great Meadows, where the first action with the French in the year 1754 was fought.

(o) This is the moiety of about 2,000 acrs which remains unsold of 6,071 acres on the Mohawk River (Montgomery County) in a patent granted to Daniel Coxe in the township of Coxeborough & Carolaca as will appear by deed from Marinus Willet & wife to George Clinton (late Governor of New York) and



myself; the latter sales have been at six dollars an acre and what remains unsold will fetch that, or more.

(p) The quality of these lands & their situation may be known by the surveyor's certificates, which are filed along with the patents. They lie in the vicinity of Cincinnaati, one tract near the mouth of the little Miami, another seven, and the third ten miles up the same. I have been informed that they will readily command more than they are estimated at—

(q) For the description of these tracts in detail see General Spottswood's letters filed with the other papers relating to them.

Besides the general good quality of the land there is a valuable bank of Iron Ore thereon which when the settlement becomes more populous (and settlers are moving that way very fast) will be found very valuable, as the rough creek, a branch of Green River affords ample water for furnaces and forges.

### LOTS Viz:

City of Washington—

(r) the two lots near the Capital in Square 634, cost me 963 \$ only, but in this price I was favoured on condition that I should build two brick houses three storys high each; without this reduction the selling prices of those lots would have cost me about \$1,350. —these lots with the buildings thereon when completed will stand me in \$15,000 at least (s) Lots No. 5, 12, 13, & 14 on the Eastern branch are advantageously situated on the water, and although many lots much less convenient, have sold a great deal higher, I will rate these at 12 cts. the square foot only.

## ALEXANDRIA

(t) For this lot, though unimproved, I have refused \$3,500. It has since been laid off into proper sized lots for building on, three or four of which are let on ground rent forever at three dollars a foot on the street, and this price is asked for both fronts on Pitt & Princess Streets.—

## WINCHESTER

(u) As neither the lot in the Town or common have any improvements on them it is not easy to fix a price, but as both are well situated it is presumed the price annexed to them in the Schedule is a reasonable value.

## BATH

(v) The lots in Bath (two adjoining) cost me to the best of my recollection, between fifty and sixty pounds, 20 years ago & the buildings thereon, £150 more—whether property there has increased or decreased in it's value, and in what condition the houses are, I am ignorant, but suppose they are not valued too high.

## STOCKS

(x) These are the sums which are actually funded, and though no more in the aggregate than \$7,566 stand me in at least ten thousand pounds in Virginia money, being the amount of bonded and other debts due to me, and discharged during the war, when money had depreciated in that rate and was so settled by public authority.

(y) The value annexed to these shares is what they have actually cost me, and is the price affixed by law;—and although the present selling price is

under par, my advice to the legatees (for whose benefit they are intended, especially those who can afford to lie out the money) is that each should take and hold one there being a moral certainty of a great and increasing profit arising from them in the course of a few years.

(z) It is supposed that the share in the James River Company must also be productive, but of this I can give no decided opinion for want of more accurate information.

(&) These are nominal prices of the Shares in the Banks of Alexandria & Columbia, the selling prices vary according to circumstances but as the stock usually divide from eight to ten per cent per annum, they must be worth the former, at least, so long as the Banks are conceived to be secure, although circumstances may sometimes below it.

The value of the live stock depends more upon the quality than the quantity of the different species of it and this again upon the demand, and judgment or fancy of the purchasers.

Mount Vernon, 9 July, 1799.

G<sup>o</sup>. WASHINGTON.

At a County Court held for the County of Fairfax the 20 January 1800, this last Will and Testament of George Washington, deceased, late President of the United States of America, was this day presented in Court by George Steptoe Washington, Samuel Washington & Lawrence Lewis, three of the Executors therein named, who made oath thereto, and the same being proved by the oath of Charles Little, Charles Simms and Ludwell Lee, to be in the true hand writing of the said Testator, as also the *schedule* thereto

annexed, and the said Will, being sealed and signed by him is on motion, Ordered to be Recorded. And the said Executors having given security and performed what the Laws require, a Certificate is granted them for a probate thereof in due form.

Teste;

G. DENEALE, Cl.; Fx.;

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State of Virginia

To wit:

County of Fairfax.

I, F. W. Richardson, Clerk of the County Court of Fairfax County Va., the same being a Court of Record, do hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true copy of the Will of George Washington, as the same appears of record in the will books of said County in Liber H. No. 1, folio 1, and that the original of said will is now on file in my office (office of the Clerk of the County Court of Fairfax Co. Va.) Given under my hand this 12th day of January, 1904.

F. W. RICHARDSON, Clerk.

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State of Virginia,

To wit:

County of Fairfax,

I, James M. Love, Judge of the County Court of Fairfax County, Va., do certify that F. W. Richardson, Esquire, whose genuine signature is signed to the foregoing certificate, is the Clerk of Fairfax County Court, Va., and that all his official acts are entitled to full faith and credit and that said certificate is in due form of law. Given under my hand this 12th day of January, 1904.

JAMES M. LOVE.



MARTHA WASHINGTON



## Copy of Martha Washington's Will

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In the name of God Amen

I Martha Washington of Mount Vernon—in the County of Fairfax being of sound mind and capable of disposing of my Worldly Estate do make Ordain and declare this to be my last will and Testament hereby revoking all other Wills and Testaments by me heretofore Made. IMPRIMUS, It is my desire that all my Just Debts may be punctually paid, and that as speedily as the same can be done—

ITEM. I give and devise to my Nephew Bartholow Dandridge and his Heirs my lot in the town of Alexandria situate on Pitt and Cameron Streets devised to me by my late Husband George Washington deceased—

ITEM. I give and bequeath to my four Nieces Martha W. Dandridge, Mary Dandridge, Frances Lucy Dandridge and Francis Henly the debt of Two Thousand pounds due from Lawrence Lewis and secured by his bond, to be equally divided between them or such of them as shall be alive at my death and to be paid to them respectively on the days of their respective marriage or Arrival at the age of Twenty One Years Whichsoever shall first happen together with all the Interest on said Debt remaining unpaid at the time of my death, and in case the whole or any part of the said principal sum of Two Thousand pounds shall be paid to me during my life then it is my Will that so much Money be raised out of my Estate as shall be equal to what I shall have received of the said principal debt and distribute among my four Nieces aforesaid, as

herein has been bequeathed and it is my meaning that the interest accruing after my death on the said sum of Two Thousand pounds shall belong to my said Nieces and be equally divided between them or such of them as shall be alive at the time of my death, and be paid annually for their respective uses untill they receive their shares of the principal. ITEM, I give and bequeath to my Grand-son George Washington Parke Custus all the Silver plate of every kind of which I shall die possessed, together with the two large plated Coolers, the four small plated coolers with the Bottle Castors, and a pipe of Wine if there be one in the house at the time of my death—also the Set of Cincinnati tea and table China, the bowl that has a stop in it, the fine Old China Jars which usually stand on the Chimney piece in the New Room also—all the family pictures of every Sort, and the pictures painted By his sister, and two small skreens worked one by his sister and the other a present from Miss Kitty Brown—also his Choice of—prints—Also the two Girandoles and Lustres that stand on them—also the new bed stead which I caused to be made in Philadelphia together with the bed, matrass, boulsters and pillows and white dimity Curtains belonging thereto; also the two other beds with bolsters and pillows and the white dimity Curtains in the New Room also the Iron Chest and the desk in my Closet which belonged to my first Husband; also all my books of Every Kind except the Large Bible, and the Prayer Book, also the set of tea China that was given me by W Vanbram every piece having M W on it—

ITEM. I give and bequeath to my Grand Daughter Elizabeth Parke Law, the dressing Table and Glass that stands in the Chamber called the Yellow Room,

and General Washingtons Picture printed by Trumbull.

ITEM. I give and bequeath to my Grand Daughter Martha Peter my writing table and the seat to it standing in my Chamber, also the print of General Washington that hangs in the passage—

ITEM. I give and bequeath to my Grand Daughter Eleanor Parke Lewis the large looking glass in the front parlour, and any other looking glass which she may choose—also One of the New side board Tables in the New Room also twelve Chairs with Green bottoms to be selected by herself also the marble table in the Garret also the two prints of the dead soldier, a print of the Washington Family in a box in the Garret and the Great Chair standing in my Chamber; all the plated ware not hereinbefore Otherwise bequeathed, also all the sheets table linen, Napkins towels pillow cases remaining in the House at my death, also three beds and bedsteads Curtains Bolsters and pillows, for each bed such as she shall choose and not herein particularly otherwise bequeathed, together with counter-pains and a pair of blankets for each bed, also all the Wine Glasses and decanters of every kind, and all the blue and white China in Common use. ITEM it is my will and desire that all the Wine in Bottles in the Vaults to be equally divided between my Grand Daughters and Grand-son, to each of whom I bequeath Ten Guineas to buy a ring for each. ITEM it is my will and Desire that Anna Mariah Washington the daughter of my Niece be put into handsome Mourning at my death at the Expence of my Estate and I bequeath to her Ten Guineas to buy a ring— ITEM. I give and bequeath to my Neighbour Mrs. Elizabeth Washington five Guineas to get something in remembrance of me— ITEM I give and bequeath to Mrs. David Stuart five

Guineas to buy her a ring—ITEM I give and bequeath to Benjamin Lincoln Lear one hundred pounds Specie to be vested in funded Stock of the United States immediately after my decease and to stand in his Name as his property which investment my Executors are to cause to be made. ITEM When the Vestry of Truro parish shall buy a Glebe I devise Will and bequeath that my Executors shall pay one hundred pounds to them to aid of the purchase, provided the said purchase be made in my life-time or Within three years after my decease— ITEM, It is my will and desire that all the rest and residue of my Estate of whatsoever kind and description not herein specifically devised or bequeathed shall be sold by the Executors of this my last Will for ready Money as soon after my decease as the same can be done and that the proceeds of thereof together with all the Money in the House and the debts due to me (the debts due from Me and the legacies herein bequeathed being first satisfied) shall be Invested by my Executors in Eight p. Cent stock of the funds of the United States and shall stand on the books in the Name of my Executors in their Character of Executors of my Will and it is my desire that the Interest thereof shall be applied to the proper Education of Bartholomew Henly and Samuel Henly the two youngest sons of my Sister Henly, and also to the Education of John Dandridge, son of my deceased Nephew John Dandridge so that they may be severally fitted and accomplished in some useful trade and to each of them who shall have lived to finish his Education or to reach the age of Twenty-one years, I give and bequeath one hundred pounds to set him up in his trade—ITEM, My debts and legacies being paid and the Education of Bartholomew Henly, Samuel Henly and

John Dandridge aforesaid being completed, or they being all dead before the completion thereof it is my will and desire that all my Estate and Interests in whatever form Existing whether in money funded stock or any other species of property shall be equally divided among all the persons herein-after mentioned who shall be living at the time that the interest of the funded stock shall cease to be applicable in pursuance of my Will hereinbefore Expressed to the Education of my Nephews Bartholomew Hendly, Samuel Hendly and John Dandridge, namely among Anna Maria Washington daughter of my Niece and John Dandridge son of my Nephew and all my Great Grandchildren living at the time that the interest of the said funded stock shall cease to be applicable to the education of the said B. Hendly, S. Hendly and John Dandridge and the same shall cease to be so applied when all of them shall die before they arrive to the age of Twenty One Years, or those living shall have finished their Education or have arrived to the age of twenty one Years, and so long as any one of the three lives, who has not finished his Education or Arrived to the age of Twenty One years, the Division of the said Residum is to be defined and no longer—Lastly I nominate and appoint my Grand Son George Washington Parke Custus, my Nephews Julius B. Dandridge and Bartholomew Dandridge and my son in law, Thomas Peter Executors of my last will and testament. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Twenty-Second day of September, in the year eighteen hundred.

MARTHA WASHINGTON. (SEAL)

Sealed, signed acknowledged and Delivered as her last Will and Testament in the presence of us the Subscribing witnesses who have been requested to subscribe the same as such in her presence—

ROGER FARRELL.

WILLIAM SPENCE.

LAWRENCE LEWIS.

MARTHA PETER.

March 4th, 1802.

I give to my Grand Son George Washington Parke Custis my Mullatto Man Elijah, that I bought of W. Butler Washington to him and his Heirs forever—

M. WASHINGTON.

AT A COURT held for Fairfax County the 21st day of June 1802 This last Will and Testament of Martha Washington deceased was presented in Court by George Washington Parke Custis and Thomas Peter, two of the Executors therein Named, who made thereto, and the same being proved by the oaths of Roger Farrell, William Spence, and Lawrence Lewis three of the subscribing witnesses thereto is together with a Codicil or Memorandum endorsed, ordered to be recorded—and the said Executors having performed what the law requires, a certificate is Granted them for obtaining a probate thereof in due form—

Teste,

WM. MOSS, C.C.

A COPY: Teste,

F. W. RICHARDSON.

*Clerk of the Circuit Court  
of the County of Fairfax, Virginia.*

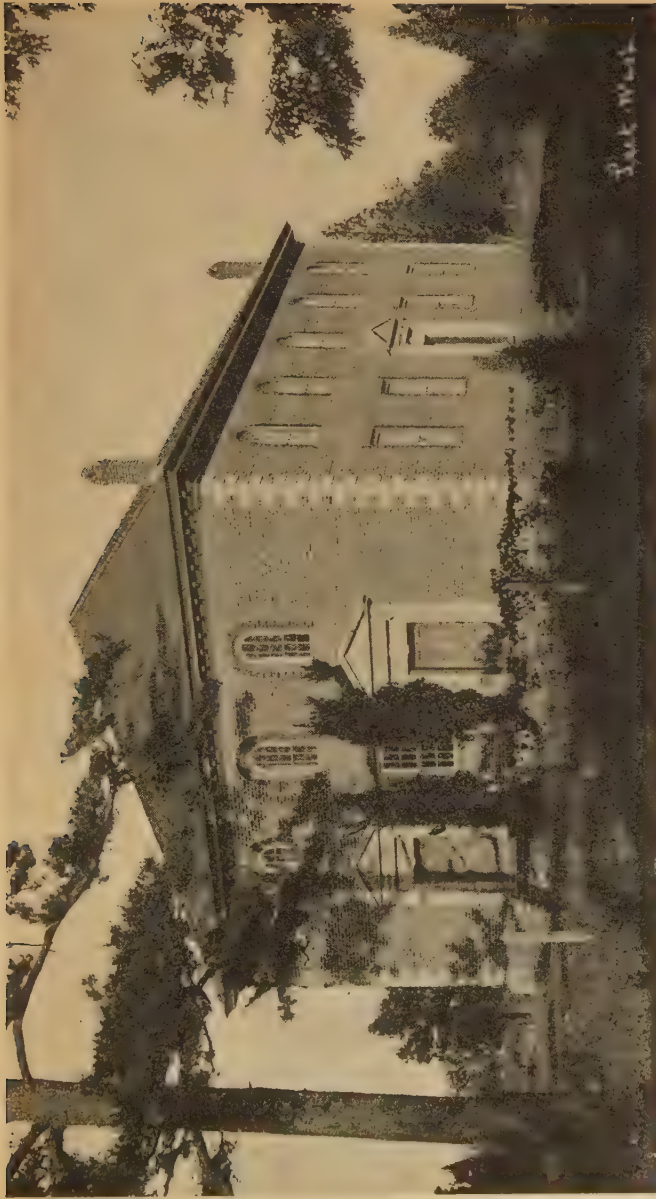




COURT HOUSE AT FAIRFAX WHERE WILLS WERE PROBATED

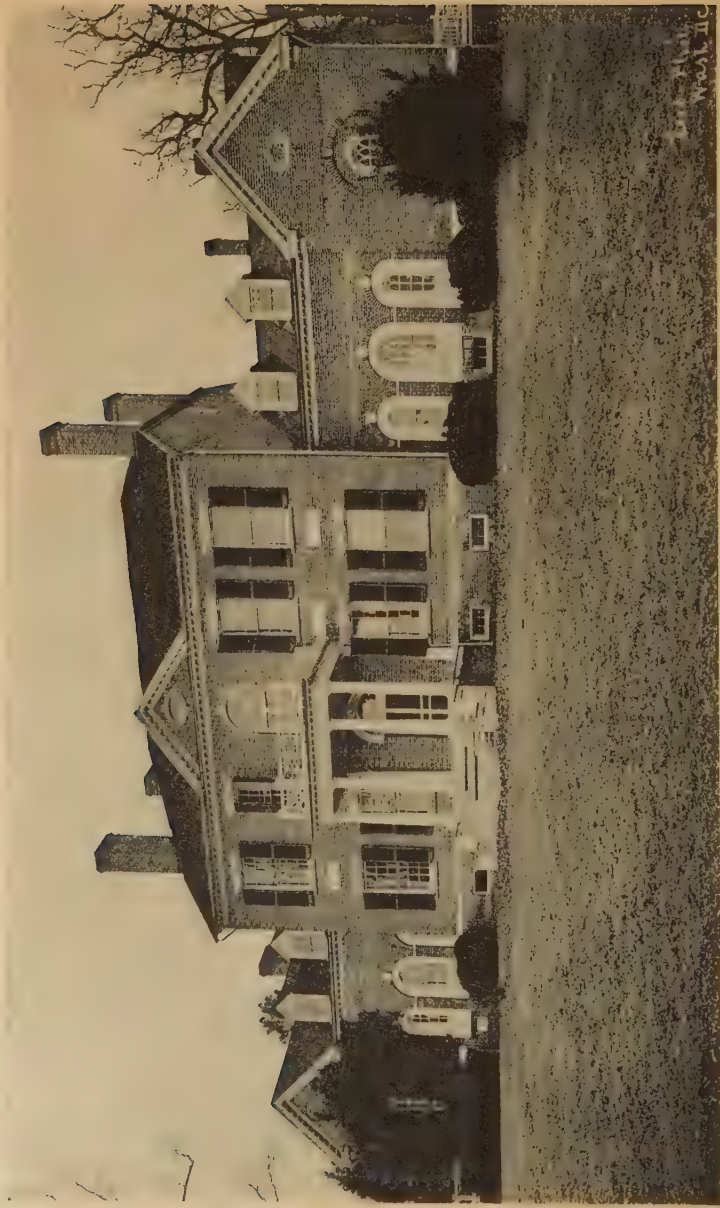


CLERK'S OFFICE WHERE WILLS ARE KEPT



POHICK CHURCH OF TRURO PARISH

Six miles below the Mt. Vernon mansion and four miles from the Potomac. Washington was a vestryman in this church



### WOODLAWN

Former home of Lawrence Lewis and Eleanor Parke Lewis, his wife, built on a part of Mt. Vernon estate, devised to them by General Washington

## The Rates of Liquors, Etc.

The following is a true copy of the rates of liquor &c., that each Innkeeper in the County was Compelled to post at his door so that a traveller might see what a night's lodging &c., would cost him.

	s.	d.
For a gill of rum and so in proportion.....	8	
Nank Brandy.....	10	
Virginia Peach or apple brandy.....	6	
New England rum.....	2	6
Virginia Brandy from grain.....	4	
Arrack the quart made into punch.....	8	
For a quart of red or white wine.....	2	6
For a quart of Madera wine.....	2	6
For all and other low wines per quart.....	1	6
English strong beer pr. do.....	1	3
London beer, called Porter pr. do.....	1	
Virginia strong beer, pr. do.....		7½
Cyder the quart bottle.....		4
English Cyder pr. do.....	1	3
For a gill of rum made into punch with loaf sugar 6d. with fruit.....		7½
For do. with brown sugar.....		4½
For a hot diet with small beer or Cyder.....	1	
For a cold diet.....		6
For a gallon of Corn or oates.....		4
Stableage and fodder for a horse 24 hours or one night.....		6
Pasturage for a horse 24 hours or one night..		4
For a night lodging with clean sheets, 6d. otherwise nothing.		



All soldiers or expresses on his Magestys Service paying ready money shall have one-fift part deducted.

This order was entered at a Court held for Fairfax County 20th March, 1755.

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There is a clause in the will of George Mason of Gunston Hall, Fairfax Co., Va. (who was the author of the Bill of Rights of Virginia, and one of the most prominent men of his day), which is worth reading and I here give it with the exact wording and spelling which is as follows, viz.—

“I recommend it to my sons from my own experience in life, to prefer the happiness of independence and a private station to the struggles and vexations of public business; but if either their inclination or the necessities of the times should engage them in public affairs I charge them on a father’s blessing, never to let the motives of private interest or ambition induce them to betray, nor the terrors of poverty or disgrace or the fear of danger or of death deter you from asserting the liberty of your Country, and endeavoring to transmit to their posterity those sacred rights to which themselves were born.”

The foregoing will of Mason was written in 1763.

The old record books were substantially bound, and are now as clear and distinct as when first written. Some of the most valuable books relating to the early history of the county, and particularly to George Washington, were carried away by Federal soldiers during the Civil war. Many of the records are quaint productions and would prove interesting reading if the designer had the space to produce them. We find that—



"At a County Court held for the County of Fairfax, Virginia, on March 19th, 1754, "Lieutenant Cols. George Washington, Lieutenants John West Jr., and James Towers pursuant to their Military Commissions from the Hon. the Governor took the oaths according to law repeated and subscribed the test." The "Test" or "Oath" was as follows, and had to be taken by every officer of the Colony;

"We do declare that there is no Transubstantiation in the Sacrement of the Lord's Supper or in the Elements of Bread & Wine at or after consecration thereof by any means whatsoever. I declare that I will act conformably to the Doctrines and Discipline of the Church of England."

At Nov. court 1754, the following presentments among many similar ones were made by the Grand Jury;

"We present Daniel French of Truro Parish for tending of Seconds in this present year by the information of George Wm. Fairfax, Esquire." The "tending of Seconds" meant the second crop of tobacco, which was prohibited by law, tobacco being the currency of these days, and over production—especially of an inferior grade—had to be guarded against.)

"We present Guy Broadwater of Truro Parish for not attending his Parish Church within two months last past to the knowledge of two of us." (There were numerous incidents of this nature.)

"We present James Robertson of Truro Parish for having married the reputed granddaughter of his former wife to the knowledge of two of us."

Others were presented for profane swearing, drunkenness, &c. One woman willed numerous locks of her

hair to be made into rings (mourning) to be worn by her relatives and friends, and also says "I will and bequeath my stand to —, but the top at present does not on its bottom."

Jeremiah Moore, after making various bequests, adds in his will: "All the remainder of my estate I give unto my beloved wife, Lydia Moore,——But she shall not be required to take out letters of administration, give any security or have any appraisement, whatever the law may say to the contrary notwithstanding, for I have more confidence in her justice, integrity & uprightness, than in all the Courts that ever set either in this Commonwealth or elsewhere."

Wm. H. Foote, at one time a prominent man in Virginia, and who was we believe, (the ancestor of Senator Foote, of Miss.) when quite old, married a young and very beautiful girl, and we find these clauses in his will, "I will and bequeath the balance of my real estate to my wife for and during her widowhood and during her natural life, with the stocks of horses, cattle, hogs and sheep, farming implements, carriage and household matters. If, however, she should cease to be my widow or marry again, she must account for all these things and take her dower at law. It is not my purpose to give to any Cur a sop."

Mr. Foote's allusion to his slaves, in the said will, shows the kindly feeling that existed between master and servant (also see in will of Washington).

"My slaves I recommend to the care and kindness of my wife and Executor, and I direct that they emancipate them from time to time as may comport with the probable wellfare of my slaves. They may be

hired out or kept upon the farm, in either case I give to the grown ones twenty dollars per annum being males & ten to females. I cannot emancipate them in this State and I know not where to send them, they must therefore look to my dear wife as their protector and be true and faithful to their duty, she and my Executor will do them justice and friendship. Bob Foy is one of natures nobility. In 46 years of trust I never found him in falsehood or prevarication for truth, faith and honest he could have no superior. He must receive twenty-five dollars per annum from my wife and end his days where he now is. \* \* \* \* \*

All of my servants are good, trusty and true and I bid them a long farewell with a sorrowful heart."

## The Passing Away of Washington

“How sleep the brave who sink to rest  
With all their country’s honors blest.”

There came to Mount Vernon a bleak, forbidding winter day, December 13, 1799. Washington was engaged in planning and superintending some improvements on his estate which occupied his presence till a late hour in the evening, when, on returning to the mansion, he complained of cold and a sore throat, having been wet through by mists and chilling rain. He passed the night with feverish excitement, and his ailment increased in intensity during the next day and until midnight, when, surrounded by his sorrowing household and medical attendant, he passed gently and serenely from the scenes of earth to the realities of the great unknown. He was in the sixty-eighth year of his age. His faculties were strong and unimpaired to the last. He was conscious from the first of his malady, that his end was near, and he awaited the issue with great composure and self-possession. “I am going,” he observed to those around him, “but I have no fears.” His mission had been well and nobly accomplished. His great life work, whose influences will reach to the remotest periods of time, was accomplished.

At the supreme moment Mrs. Washington sat in silent grief at his bedside. “Is he gone?” she asked in a firm and collected voice. The physician, unable to speak, gave a silent signal of assent. “’Tis well,” she added in the same untremulous utterance; “all is

over now. I shall soon follow him; I have no more trials to pass through." She followed three years later. They both rest side by side in the new burial vault at the old homestead by the river.

The following quaint announcements of Washington's death from the newspapers of the locality will be of interest:

The Georgetown Centinel of Liberty, a semi-weekly, in its issue of December 17, 1799, thus announces Washington's death: "It is our painful duty first to announce to the country and the world the death of General George Washington. This mournful event occurred on Saturday evening about eleven o'clock. On the preceding night he was attacked with a violent inflammatory affection of the throat, which in less than twenty-four hours put a period to his life. If a long life devoted to the most important public services; if the most eminent usefulness, true greatness, and consummate glory; if being an honor to our race and a model to future ages; if all these could rationally suppress our grief, never perhaps ought we to mourn so little. But as they are the most powerful motives to gratitude, attachment, and veneration for the living and of sorrow at their departure, never ought America and the world to mourn more than on this melancholy occasion."

The Alexandria Times and District of Columbia Advertiser, of Friday, December 20, 1799, of which one-half sheet is all that is known to be in existence, thus announced Washington's death and funeral: "The effect of the sudden news of his death upon the inhabitants of Alexandria can better be conceived than expressed. At first a general disorder, wildness, and consternation pervaded the Town. The tale

appeared as an illusory dream, as the raving of a sickly imagination. But these impressions soon gave place to sensations of the most poignant sorrow and extreme regret. On Monday and Wednesday the stores were all closed and all business suspended, as if each family had lost its father. From the time of his death to the time of his interment the bells continued to toll, the shipping in the harbor wore their colors half-mast high, and every public expression of grief was observed. On Wednesday, the inhabitants of the Town, of the County, and the adjacent parts of Maryland, proceeded to Mount Vernon to perform the last offices to the body of their illustrious neighbor. All the military within a considerable distance and three Masonic lodges were present. The concourse of people was immense. Till the time of interment the corpse was placed on the portico fronting the river, that every citizen might have an opportunity of taking a last farewell of the departed benefactor."



## List of Articles Ordered from London for Martha Washington

What Martha Washington needed the first year of her marriage, ordered from London by Col. Washington, 1759:

"The following is an exact copy of this memoranda which is curiously quaint:

- 1 Cap, handkerchief and tucker.
- 2 Fine lawn aprons.
- 2 Double handkerchiefs.
- 2 pairs of white silk hose.
- 6 pairs of fine cotton hose.
- 4 pairs of thread hose.
- 1 Pair of black satin shoes of the smallest fives.
- 1 Pair of white satin shoes.
- 1 Pair of calamanco shoes.
- 1 Fashionable hat or bonnet.
- 6 Pairs of kid gloves.
- 6 Pairs of mits.
- 6 Breast knots.
- 1 Dozen silk stay laces.
- 1 Black mask.
- 1 Dozen fashionable cambric handkerchiefs.
- 2 Pairs neat small scissors.
- 1 Pound of sewing silk.
- 1 Box of real miniken pins and hair pins.
- 4 Pieces of tape.
- 6 Pounds of perfumed powder.
- 1 Piece narrow white satin ribbon.
- 1 Tuckered petticoat of a fashionable color.

- 1 Silvered tabby petticoat.
- 2 Handsome breast flowers.
- 9 Pounds of sugar candy."

So Martha used perfumed powder, breast knots, silken hose, and satin shoes like any modern lady who makes the slightest pretension to fine dressing. (See Snowden's Historic Landmarks.)





\* P2-BDH-316 \*